

PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS

The MCTA's main materials and educational aids are the supplemental materials that come from the adopted-textbook series and providers of a particular district (i.e. SRA/Open Court-McGraw Hill for Detroit Public Schools or Houghton Mifflin for Southfield Public Schools). An example of the Open Court Reading program which was recently adopted by the Detroit Public School system, gives an example of the how scientifically-research based data has its place in educational planning.

Founded in 1888, Science Research Associates, Inc. (SRA) has been a leader in scientifically-researched educational materials. Since 1938, SRA has established itself with the goal of using principles of behavioral sciences to improve the fields in career guidance and counseling and education. Currently, the SRA/Open Court Reading, (OCR) program of McGraw-Hill is used by over five thousand school districts in the United States. SRA/McGraw-Hill is the top provider of specialized research-based educational programs for the elementary market for Reading and Math. It's highly scientifically-based research literature has improved student reading achievement over the past sixty years. The SRA/OCR of McGraw-Hill focuses on the methods of Direct Instruction. This method was found to be one of just 3 programs out of 29 studied to have the strongest evidence of effectiveness by John Hopkins University. The Direct-Instruction methodology is a field-tested reading language arts, and math curriculum that utilizes highly structured lesson strategies for grades K-6. The Direct Instruction utilized by the OCR program has been ranked as a top performing teaching model for Reading education. "To be ranked as a teaching model with the Strongest Evidence of Effectiveness" a program must have 10 or more studies total or more third-party comparison-group studies from across the country. The OCR program shows statistically significant positive achievement effects. The program of choice for the MCTA when it comes to school districts that have adopted McGraw-Hill is the SRA Reading Laboratories series. "For over 40 years, SRA Reading Labs have helped more than 100 million students around the world improve their reading skills" (SRA, 2003). This series allows the students to learn independently and in small group instruction. It meets the needs of all learners in one complete package. The following skills are assessed and developed with the SRA Reading Labs: Phonics, Decodable Text, Vocabulary, Timed Reading/Fluency, Comprehension, Test Preparation Skills, and exposure to various literary genres.

In 2000, SRA acquired the supplemental materials that the MCTA will use to tutor students in Math (if their respective school district uses the SRA series). The Everyday Mathematics series is a research-based program from Everyday Learning published by the National Textbook Company.

Additionally, the Houghton Mifflin Reading program (which services numerous school districts in the state of Michigan) has been tested in independent, and clinical

trials that meet the federal legislation requirements for scientifically based research. This reading program provides comprehensive instructional support for the five essential elements of reading, phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, and vocabulary and comprehension development. Under a Program Efficacy Study, Houghton Mifflin tracked the results of a district-administered Stanford Achievement (SAT 9) in Washington D.C. schools. After the Houghton Mifflin Reading program was implemented, school officials found that students scored at **Basic** or **Above** on the reading portion of the SAT 9 with approximately 30 percentage points. Under other studies across the U.S., Houghton Mifflin-user schools have seen an average increase of 17.2 percentage points in students scoring at **Basic** or **Above** on achievement tests.

Like OCR/McGraw-Hill and Houghton Mifflin, the following adopted textbook series and educational systems are deeply rooted in scientifically based research. The MCTA will use the supplemental materials according to the adopted-textbooks of our student-clientele's respective school district (along with resources provided by the MDE). Those supplemental materials will come from...

- Best Practices for Increasing Student Achievement
- Resources from Selected Publications of the U.S. Department of Education
- Curriculum Associates, Inc.
- Adventures to Reading
- Silver-Burdette Publishing
- Prentice-Hall Publishers
- Harcourt & Brace Publishers
- Houghton Mifflin- (Soar to Success, Get Set to Read Computer Aided Technology Program, etc.)
- The Marva Collins Institute
- Open Court Reading SRA/McGraw-Hill (Merrill Reading Program, Technology Based Reading Series Project, SRA Reading Laboratories and the Specific Skills Series)

At least one of the above reading series has been adopted by a school district in Michigan. They all employ systematic, empirical methods that draw on observation or experiment. They all provide individualized instruction to an entire learning group of readers at different levels. They may be evaluated using experimental or quasi-experimental designs in which individuals; entities, programs or activities are measured to evaluate program effectiveness and post student achievement.

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